父親の再婚話に動揺し素直になれない小津翠。転校してきた学校でも意地をはってしまい、うまくいかず自己嫌悪で落ち込んでいた。だが突然起こった竜巻に巻き込まれ、意識を失った翠が気づくとそこは「オズの国」。しかも翠は虹を超えてやって来た伝説の「オズの花嫁」だという。奇跡を起こすという「花嫁の祝福」を求めて群がる人々に、翠は自分は違うと叫ぶが、持っていた祖母の形見の時計はオズマ姫の魔法時計だと言われる。祖母がなぜオズの国の時計を持っていたのか知るため、オズマ姫がいるという《エメラルド・シティ》を目指す翠。スーやスティンという仲間も得たが、途中、地底の王子ユールに魅われてしまう。なんとか逃れた先は、砂漠の中の城。翠と、そこで出会った、時計に掏かれた少女にそっくりなエメラダは、首狩りをする城の主・ラングイディア姫に捕われてしまう!!

cover design — Tokyo Zukan

オズと魔法使いたち ②

OZ & WIZARDS

四位広猫

WINGS COMICS

オズと魔法使いたち

OZ & WIZARDS ②

四位広猫

新書館

首狩り姫・ラングイディアの城に、不思議な美少女・エメラダとともに囚われてしまった翠。次々に首を替え、ただひたすらに美しくあろうとする姫は、ふたりの首もはねてコレクションにするという。過去のいきさつから頑なに心を閉ざした姫の心を、翠は溶かすことができるのか……。竜巻とともにやって来た魔法の国・オズで、翠の冒険はつづく——!!

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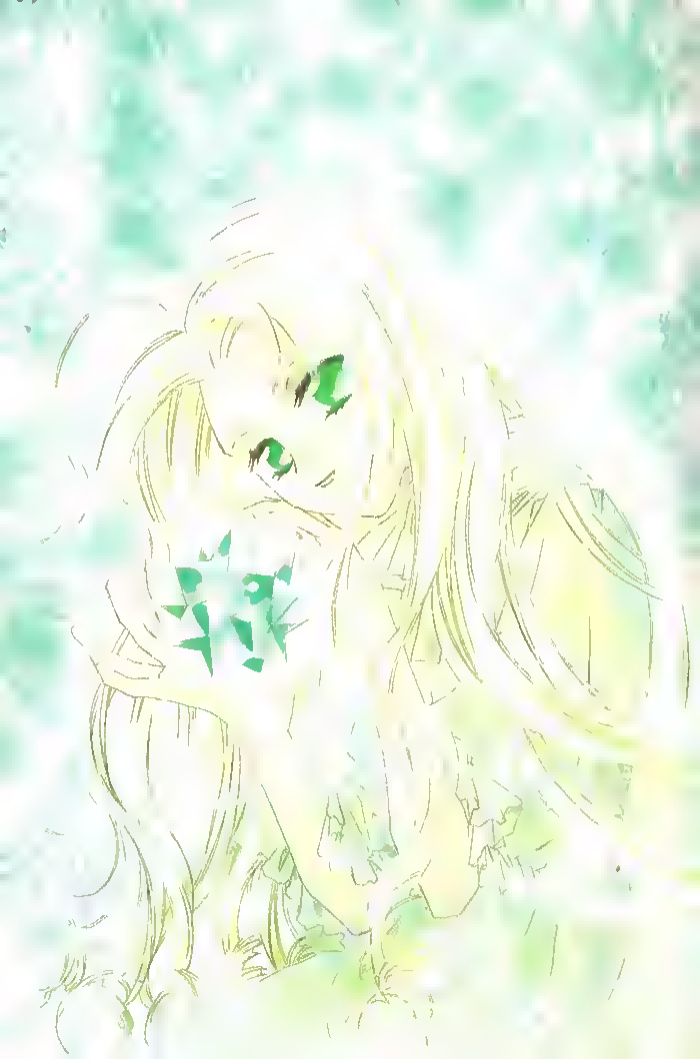

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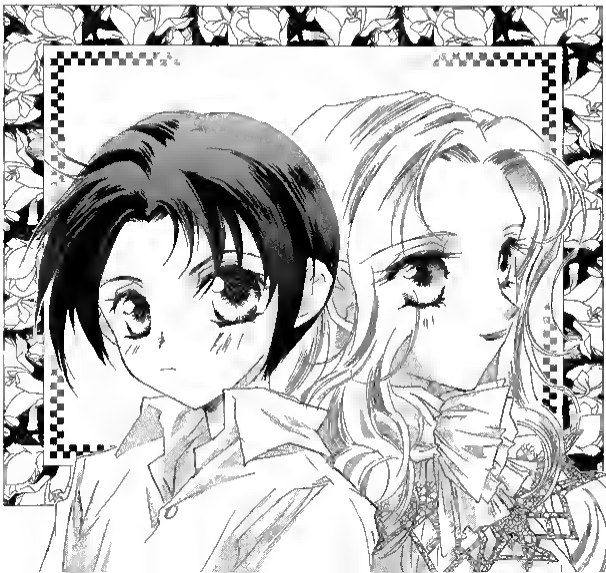
オズと魔法使いたち

Oz & Wizards



THE ONLY ONE IN THIS CASTLE WHO'S ALLOWED TO HAVE A HEAD IS PRINCESS LANGUIDIA!
WHO ARE YOU—? WHY ARE YOU WEARING A MAID UNIFORM WHEN YOU HAVE A HEAD?!
WHO... ARE YOU?!
That's what I want to know!!
Just what are all of you?!

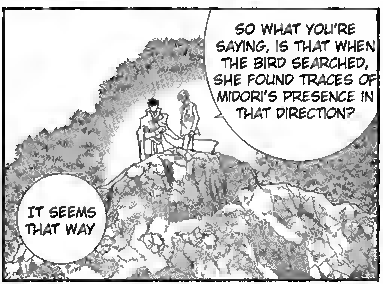
HMPH! I'M MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN A BRAT LIKE THAT
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE A NEW HEAD? ALTHOUGH, NOW THAT I LOOK AT YOU YOU'RE STILL A CHILD
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, 23? I, NUMBER 9, AM BY FAR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY ARE THE PRINCESS'S HEAD BEING SO NOISY?
ZUCK ZUCK
—Bride, come this way
This is bad!!!
IS SOMEONE IN THERE —?
What should I do? I need to find some place to hide—!
SNEAK
CREAK
CREAK
BE SILENT, 21! IT'S OBVIOUS THAT I, NUMBER 4, AM—
— EH... UWAH!

THUD
OWWW—?!
A hidden door—?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? A STORAGE ROOM...?

Oz Bride... are you all right?
WH... WHO?!
Gasp
Please don't be afraid, Oz Bride.
I am— Languidia.
...EH?

I am the ruler of this kingdom, Languidia.
It is a pleasure to meet you.
WHOOSH
—Oz Bride.

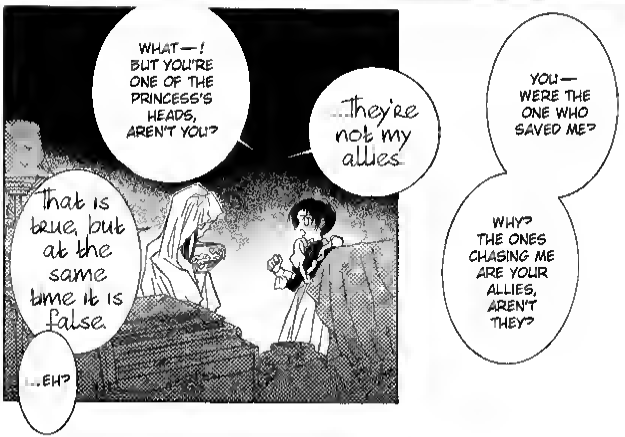
WHOOSH
THIS IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE "DESERT OF DEATH"?
YEAH
IF YOU GO STRAIGHT TO THE NORTHWEST, YOU'LL END UP IN THE COUNTRY OF EVE.
AND THE CLOSEST OASIS IS AT THE EVE IMPERIAL VILLA.


SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, IS THAT WHEN THE BIRD SEARCHED, SHE FOUND TRACES OF MIDORI'S PRESENCE IN THAT DIRECTION?
IT SEEMS THAT WAY

THE EVE VILLA— IS THAT THE ONE CALLED THE "CASTLE OF THE HEADHUNTING PRINCESS"?

DO YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT EVE...?
SO, PRINCESS HEADS, WHERE DID THAT MAID GO?
WE DON'T KNOW! NUMBER 21 WAS BEING NOISY WHEN THEY DISAPPEARED!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
SHUT UP! THE ONES THAT ARE AT FAULT ARE YOU TWO, 16 AND 4!
...THAT MEANS THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW?
HOW DARE YOU—!

It's all right, Oz Bride.
No one but me ever comes in here.
HONESTLY, WHERE IS HE HIDING?
THE PRINCESS'S GOOD MOOD WILL BE RUINED AGAIN—
Bride, come this way—
...Ah!


WHAT—! BUT YOU'RE ONE OF THE PRINCESS'S HEADS, AREN'T YOU?
...They're not my allies.
That is true, but at the same time it is false.
...EH?
YOU— WERE THE ONE WHO SAVED ME?
WHY? THE ONES CHASING ME ARE YOUR ALLIES, AREN'T THEY?

That's because I am me.
I am Languidia.
I am the one and only foolish Languidia.
I was the one who separated my heart from my body
And then I threw away the real me.
Oz Bride, I have a request for you
The real— Princess Languidia?

FACE No 13
YOU CAN'T FIND HIM?!
YES.
IF THE BRIDE ESCAPED FROM THE MAID'S ROOM, THEN
THAT MAID WHO DISAPPEARED IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE BRIDE!
Please, take me out of here
And take me to the other 'me' so that I can stop her—

WE'VE ALREADY SEARCHED ALL OF THE PLACES HE COULD BE HIDING
IF HE FLED INTO THE DESERT THEN—
THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE.
I CAN'T IMAGINE HE WOULD FLEE AND LEAVE BEHIND THE YOUNG GIRL CALLED EMERADA.
I CAN'T IMAGINE HE WOULD DO SOMETHING SO CRUEL OR SO SHALLOW
THAT BOY HAD SUCH BRIGHT EYES.
THOSE EYES ARE THE TYPE I'M WEAKEST AGAINST
THEY'RE LIKE MY LOST—
—BRING THE OTHER ONE OUT HERE!
YES!

DO YOU THINK.. YOU CAN STOP HER? THE OTHER PRINCESS LANGUIDIA?
I must stop her, with whatever means
Hmph!
WE'LL USE HER AS BAIT.
I'LL ENJOY CLOUDING THOSE EYES.
I DON'T KNOW.. AFTER ALL, SO MANY STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN IN THIS COUNTRY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S REAL ANYMORE
Do you not believe in me?
—...

Oz Bride
Will you listen to an old story?
It's a story of a childish love.
It is from when me and I were still one person.
At that time—
I was always waiting for a certain knight to come visit.

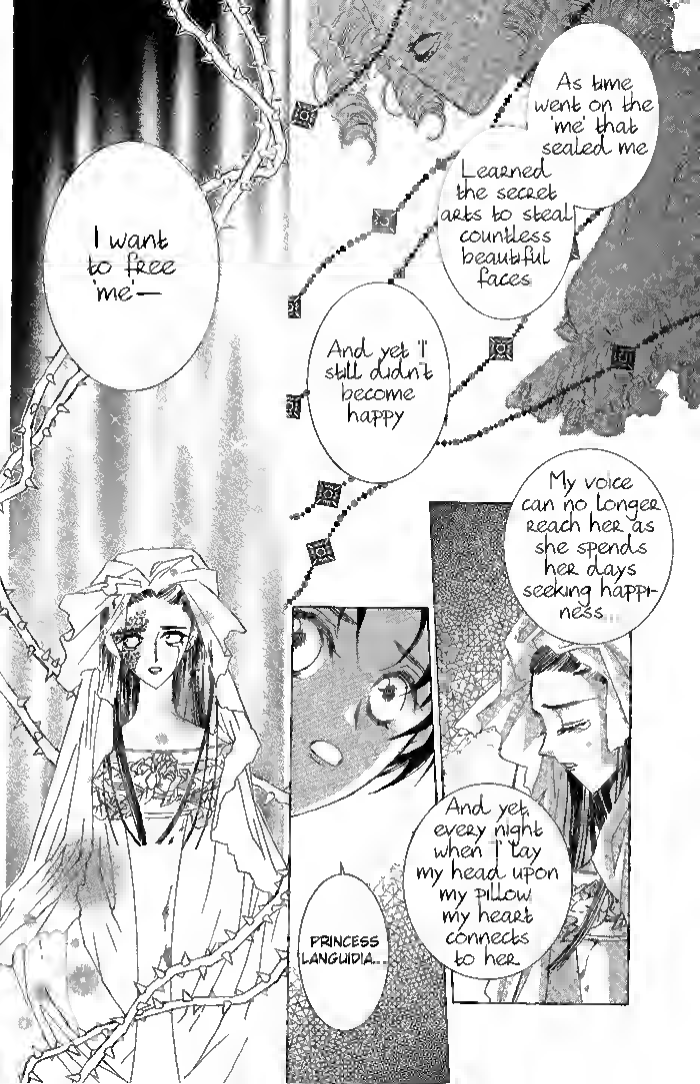
He was a wanderer.
He would frequently travel from Eve North to the Gnome Kingdom.
He was clumsy but kind and his eyes were always gazing far off into the distance.
And he would stay at this villa.
And soon I was constantly thinking about him
Even though I knew that that gaze was turned towards another woman—

THE WOMAN THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT
MUST BE AN AMAZING WOMAN, ISN'T SHE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY THOUGHTS ARE WORTH BUT
I CAN SAY THAT
Although he was a man of few words, the words he did say
—Were more painful than anything else to me.
...That's because
SHE IS VERY BEAUTIFUL.
I... SEE ..

Would you lift my veil, please?
Oz Beside.
Y... YEAH
The reason I left Eve and came to live in this villa alone was because of this!
It was too painful to be around my beautiful and healthy sisters
LIFT
Ah...!

His visits were something that I looked forward to.
Even if he was thinking of another woman.
Amid those quiet, lonely, boring days.
— But, one day
He returned from the Gnome Kingdom with terrible wounds
I AM THANKFUL FOR THE COMPASSION I RECEIVED FROM YOU, PRINCESS
I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL
Grateful—!
I knew there would no longer be any reason for him to come this way—
And that was when he and that other person decided to call it off.

I wished I had been born beautiful.
If I was more beautiful,
I wasn't the "beautiful being" that he had chosen
Would I have been able to capture his heart...?
That wasn't what I wanted from him
But
I couldn't say that
And so I split apart my heart and my
I sealed my body childish love inside myself and became a different person
I know it was a foolish thing to do, but I couldn't think of any other way to run away from the pain in my heart


I want to free 'me'—
As time went on the 'me' that sealed me
Learned the secret arts to steal countless beautiful faces
And yet 'I' still didn't become happy
My voice can no longer reach her as she spends her days seeking happiness
PRINCESS LANGUIDIA...
And yet every night when I lay my head upon my pillow my heart connects to her

UNHAND ME, YOU BRUTES!
YOU'RE HERE?
OOH, SCARY. DON'T LOOK SO ANGRY.
IF YOU DEVELOP ANY WRINKLES ON YOUR FOREHEAD I WON'T BE ABLE TO USE YOU
WHERE'S MIDORI?!

YOU'RE SO NOISY YELLING 'MIDORI!' 'MIDORI!'
I'VE HEARD THAT EVERYONE IS AFTER THE OZ BRIDE'S MIRACLE
RELEASE MIDORI!
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE AFTER TOO?
FOR ME, MIDORI IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE HE'S MIDORI.
I'VE ALWAYS CARED FOR HIM
AND I WON'T HAND HIM OVER TO ANYONE
DON'T MAKE SUCH A JOKE! I'M NOTHING LIKE THOSE PEOPLE!

ALWAYS—?
HMPH! IT'S NOT SO SIMPLE FOR SOMEONE TO HOLD ONTO EMOTIONS FOR THAT LENGTH OF TIME
NOT EVERYONE IS LIKE YOU, LANGUIDIA
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID, YOU—
I KNOW WHAT'S IMPORTANT
AT LEAST, I KNOW BETTER THAN YOU
YOU CERTAINLY ARE A TALKATIVE LITTLE GIRL
AT THE VERY LEAST, WHEN I TAKE YOUR HEAD, I'LL NO LONGER HAVE TO LISTEN TO THAT MOUTH OF YOURS.

Shuu...
THIS IS EVE'S TREASURED MAGIC SWORD.
DON'T WORRY, IT WON'T HURT.

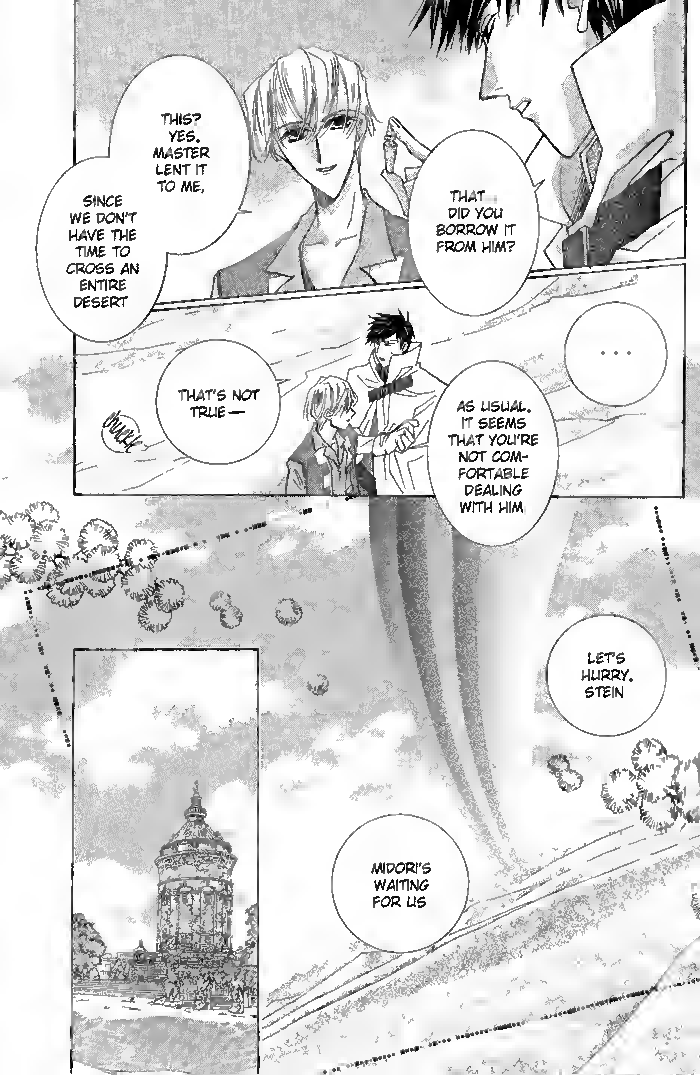
LATER
THERE!
PLUMP
Are you all right, Oz Bride?
YES. BUT I'M SORRY PRINCESS, IT MUST BE P..INFUL.

No, you're very gentle, Oz Bride.
TH— THAT'S NOT—
—Anyway,
When did it become so natural to be called
The Oz Bride?
DIZZY
And I'm wearing women's clothes
You can get to the hallway from that bridge down there.
YOU REALLY KNOW THIS ROUTE WELL!
CHUCKLE
Heehee, I was quite the tomboy

SCREECH
OKAY, THEN LET'S GO!
IT'S MIDORI!
GASP
YOU FOUND HIM?
YES, RIGHT HERE
WE RECEIVED A REFLECTION OF HIM FROM THE BIRD

THAT WAS DANGEROUS. I'M REALLY WORRIED WE NEED TO HURRY AND GET TO HIM
What is he wearing?
AH! HE'S OKAY
THUD
Wah!
SET
splash
Ah!

WHOOSH
SHINE
RIPPLE


THIS? YES. MASTER LENT IT TO ME,
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO CROSS AN ENTIRE DESERT
THAT... DID YOU BORROW IT FROM HIM?
...
THAT'S NOT TRUE—
AS USUAL. IT SEEMS THAT YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE DEALING WITH HIM
LET'S HURRY, STEIN
MIDORI'S WAITING FOR US

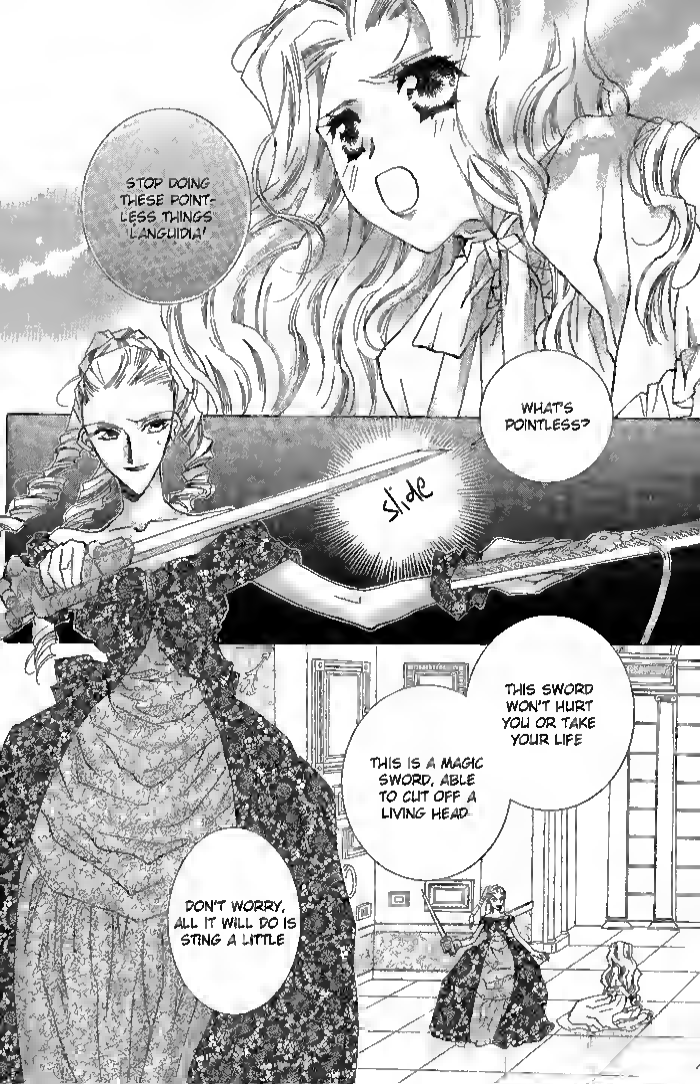
ARE WE PREPARED FOR THE NEW HEAD?
THE PRINCESS SAID TO PLACE THE GIRL'S HEAD ON IVORY
Emerada!
JOY

It's Emerada right?
YOU KNOW HER, PRINCESS?!
PRINCESS, I HAVE ONE REQUEST
What is it, bride?
ACTUALLY... THERE'S ANOTHER GIRL THAT I WANT TO SAVE, AND WHO I WANT YOU TO MEET.

Everything the other 'me' sees and hears, I know of too.
And I can tell that you are very worried about her.
SMILE
Do you like her?
Eeeh?!!
YOU'RE WRONG! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
I'VE JUST BARELY MET HER!
BLUSH
I MEAN, I DO THINK SHE'S CUTE, BUT—
Bride, the feelings in your heart are not affected by the flow of time.
IT'S MORE THAN JUST A FEELING, IT'S

SHE'S A LITTLE STRANGE, BUT...
SHE'S REALLY STRONG
FOR SOME REASON SHE FASCINATES ME
— And she looks like the girl in the watch.
And I'm getting used to being called a bride!
Although I'm saying that while wearing something like this
That's right, now is not the time for me to...
smile smile smile
HAH!
I— I'M JUST WORRIED BECAUSE SHE'S A GIRL!
I CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY OWN SITUATION MYSELF.
SINCE I'M A BOY!

HMPH!
Although it was Emerada who saved me back then.
Are you shy, bride?
Oh—! You sure are composed during such a dangerous time.
This time I have to save her—!
Ah!
APPEAR
JEEZ—! LET'S GO!
KA-CHAK
THIS WAY! I FOUND THE OZ BRIDE!
Dammit!
OZ BRIDE!
HALT!


STOP DOING THESE POINTLESS THINGS 'LANGUIDIA'
WHAT'S POINTLESS?
slide
THIS SWORD WON'T HURT YOU OR TAKE YOUR LIFE
THIS IS A MAGIC SWORD, ABLE TO CUT OFF A LIVING HEAD
DON'T WORRY, ALL IT WILL DO IS STING A LITTLE

UNRAVEL
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT'S POINTLESS?
YOU CAN'T HURT ME—
RISE
WHEN DID YOU-?!
YOU GOT MIDORI INVOLVED IN ALL THIS,
SO YOU'D BETTER BE PREPARED FOR YOUR PUNISHMENT!
YOU KNOW! I'M PRETTY ANGRY RIGHT NOW!
WHY YOU-

WHEN THEY BROUGHT ME HERE I DUSTED THEM WITH A MAGIC POWDER.
YOU TWO, RESTRAIN HER—!
DON'T WORRY, THEY'LL JUST BE SLEEPING FOR A WHILE
WHAT IS THIS. . .?!
HOW DARE YOU. . .!
UNGE

SLASH
Clang
Ka-ching
DUCK!
SLASH
THAT WAS CLOSE!
sigh
I TOLD YOU IT WAS POINTLESS
IF THAT'S THE EXTENT OF YOUR ABILITY THEN DOUBTLESS I'M GOING TO WIN
BE SILENT!

SFX slash
KUH!
sigh
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT
FINE, DO AS YOU LIKE.
Emerada, where are you— ?!

WHA...?!
GLARE
MY SWORD CAN'T REACH?!
GLEAM
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WAS POINTLESS.
SEE? JUST GIVE UP
TOUCH
SFX: clang

THAT LIGHT.. IT CAN'T BE!
WHY DO YOU HAVE THE PROTECTION OF OZ...?!
LANGUIDIA,
AS A MEMBER OF EVE'S ROYAL FAMILY,
EVEN WITH ONLY HALF OF MY POWER, YOU SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO TELL WHO I AM, RIGHT?

YOU CAN'T BE...!
BUT...
THE PREVIOUS LEADER HAS ALREADY STEPPED DOWN.
AND I'M SURE THE NEXT LEADER IS A.
WHAT'S GOING ON.?
IT'S-A-SECRET ♡
OZ BRIDE! STOP RIGHT THERE!
I DON'T WANNA—!

THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE WOULD STOP JUST BECAUSE YOU TELL THEM TO!
Bride! It's over there! Go through that door—
SFX: step
SFX: slam

EMERADA!

SFXs dotter
Bride! Our pursuers!
DAMN —— WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?
Jump!
—— EH?!
I'M SO GLAD! YOU'RE SAFE!
MIDORI!

Wah—!
MIDORI!
You'll be all right, just jump!
WH-WHO ARE YOU?!
Stop complaining and jump already!
WAH!

This is bad...!
WHAT... IS THIS?
I'M — FLOATING?
It's like Galinda's magic
TOUCH
— Eh?!

It was a man's voice——
MIDORI!
gasp
And what was that voice?
Is this also part of the Oz Bride's power?
HOW DID I——?
...MIDORI!
Waah!
DON'T BE SO MAD, EMERADA.
IDIOT! I'M WORRIED
YOU IDIOT! WHY DID YOU COME HERE?!
I WAS SO RELIEVED WHEN I HEARD YOU HAD ESCAPED THE MAIDS, AND YET...
EME-..

AFTER ALL, I'M A MAN.
I WANTED TO SHOW OFF FOR YOU.
Jeez I'm all messy.
BUT I WAS JUST TRYING TO SAVE YOU.
I'M SO HAPPY! MIDORI...!
HUG
Waah!
Oz Bride this is painful
Emerada—
point
AH?

!
YOU CHILDREN ARE PUTTING ON QUITE THE DISPLAY.
...YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, OZ BRIDE.
LANGUIDIA, ARE YOU STILL...?!
OZ—
LANGUIDIA!
EVEN IF I CAN'T HURT YOU,
I CAN STILL KEEP HIM HERE, YOUR

LISTEN, PRINCESS
I DIDN'T JUST COME HERE TO SAVE EMERADA
I CAME TO SEE YOU
ME..?
YOU CAME WEARING THAT OUTFIT?
RUSTLE
GIGGLE
!!
No, 'Languidia' It was I who wanted to see you
It's been a long time, other me—

I never thought
I would ever see you again, Langudia—
PRINCESS?
WAAH!
SLASH

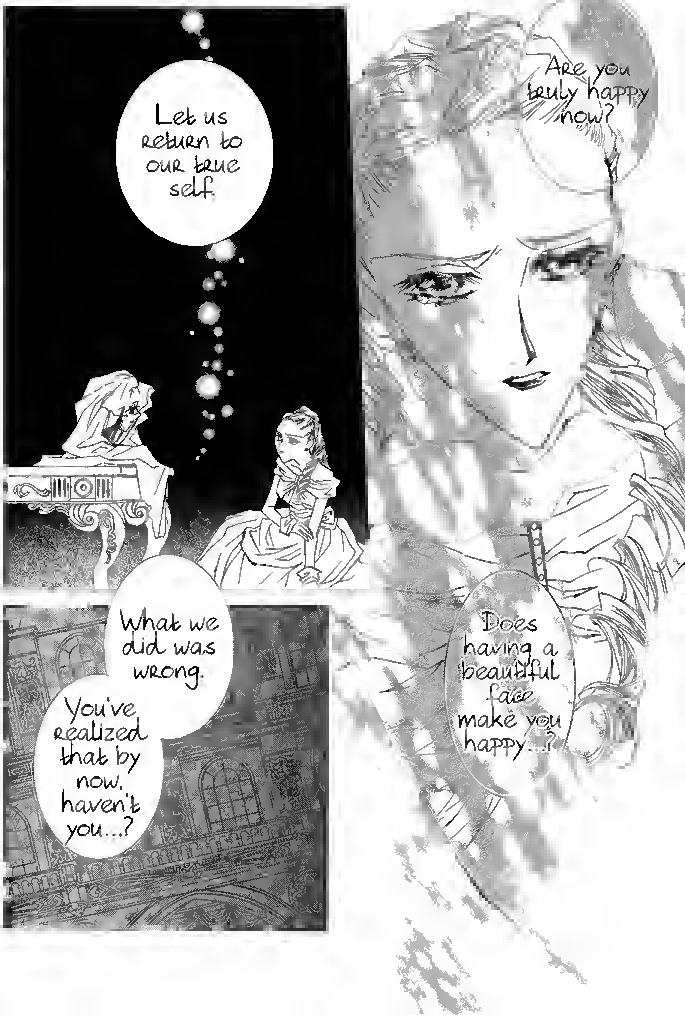
CLa
ng
PRESS
Toh!
ALL OF YOU! CAPTURE THEM!
IF THEY WON'T OBEY YOU! THEN THROW THEM INTO THE DESERT!
I TOLD YOU, IT'S POINTLESS!
PRINCESS..!

IN EXCHANGE FOR ETERNAL BEAUTY, WE ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT WITH YOU.
WE CANNOT, PRINCESS.
WE WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, BUT...
WE CANNOT TURN OUR BLADES AGAINST YOUR TRUE SELF, EVEN IF THE ORDER COMES FROM YOU—
I, ALONE, AM LANGUIDIA! JUST THE BEAUTIFUL— ME—
SOMEONE SO HIDEOUS CANNOT BE LANGUIDIA!
YOU'RE WRONG!
SOMEONE LIKE THAT ISN'T ME!
clang

'Lan-guidia'.
NOOO! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
I AM LANGUIDIA!
ONLY BEAUTIFUL ME—!
PRINCESS, PLEASE LISTEN
WE CAME JUST FOR THIS——

'Languidia'.
That time when we wished to be separated.
We used Eve's secret method to obtain a beautiful head...
We entered into contracts with young women who didn't want to lose their beauty
We passed our days in this castle living a lie—
But that was fine, if we could get what we wanted.
We believed happiness was in our grasp
But...

But your heart filled with the futility of waiting for him to return
And although we started out as one person
From that day on, I was cut off.
They should have been painful memories
But they became my one light during that time.
Something that can't be attained becomes precious
Countless, countless times——
'Languidia'


Let us return to our true self.
What we did was wrong.
You've realized that by now, haven't you...?
Are you truly happy now?
Does having a beautiful face make you happy...?

AND EXPERIENCE THOSE PAINFUL MEMORIES AGAIN?
TO BE DRAGGED DOWN BY THOSE PITIFUL FEELINGS OF SELF-LOATHING.
TO TELL MY HEART, WHEN I HAVE NO SELF-CONFIDENCE—
THAT I JUST WANTED TO BE LOVED
I WANTED TO BE NEEDED.
It's painful.
It's painful.
I WANTED SOMEONE TO CHOOSE ME.
Not being loved is painful—
AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT BECOMING BEAUTIFUL FOR THAT SAKE WAS POINTLESS...?!

FATHER!
FATHER, LOOK THIS WAY!
EVEN SO, LANGUIDIA,
YOU WERE MISTAKEN.
IF YOU CAN'T CONVEY YOUR FEELINGS TO THE OTHER PERSON, THEY CAN'T BE ANSWERED.
DON'T RUN AWAY. TELL THEM HOW YOU FEEL.
IF YOU WANT THEM TO TAKE YOUR HAND, THEN YOU NEED TO EXTEND IT FIRST.
FATHER—!

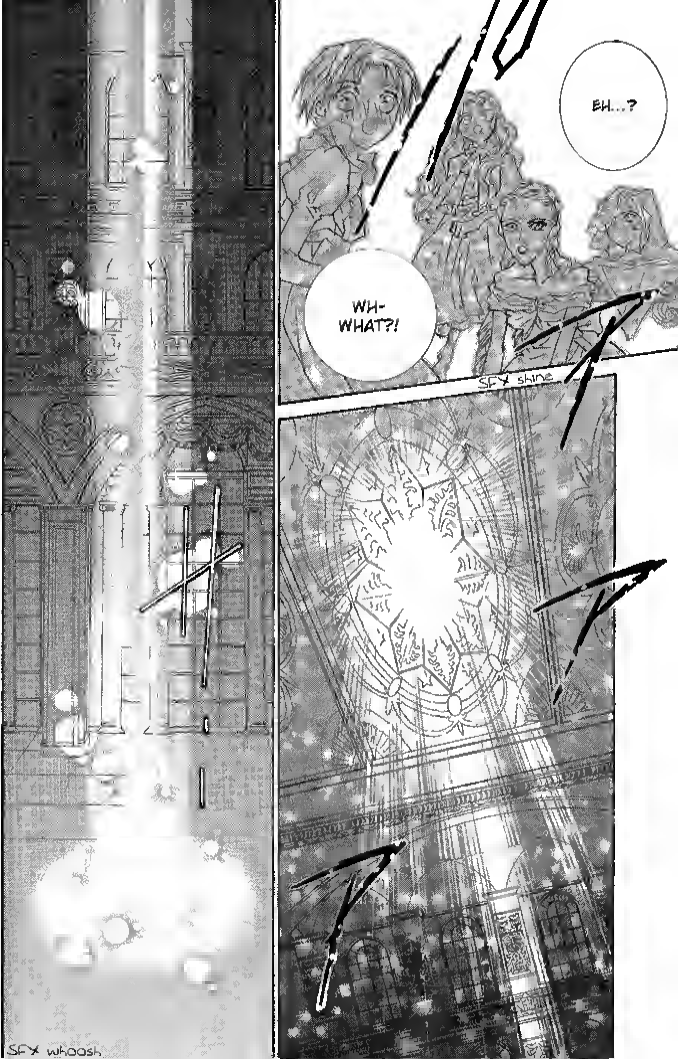
FATHER'S HAVING A CHILD WITH THAT WOMAN—?
WILL I BE ALL ALONE AGAIN?
I DON'T WANT THAT—
I'm— the same as the princess!
Father made a new family.
I was afraid I wouldn't have a place in it.
I thought father didn't need me.
Without saying anything, I felt I had no choice but to reject them...
—— And in doing so, I wasn't able to share anything with him.

I was afraid of hearing what father had to say.
So, plugged my ears and ran away
To my memories of grandma ——— and to Oz.
I was running away
It's all-right, Midori, don't be afraid
-DORI!
MIDORI! WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T YOU FEEL WELL...?
Emerada!
GASP
Open your heart without fear
— will protect you
AH!

I'M FINE, IT'S NOTHING. .
What...? That image just now——
"—— will protect you
—— Who?
Open your heart without fear
Aah, but... for some reason
My chest —— feels warm——
PRINCESS,
I CAN'T SAY THIS WONDERFULLY, BUT
I WAS ALSO RUNNING AWAY WHEN I CAME TO OZ
I EVEN BECAME THE OZ BRIDE BY ACCIDENT
BUT THAT ISN'T A GOOD THING AT ALL —— IT'S BECAUSE I'M WEAK

I WANT TO GO HOME
BUT WHEN I LISTENED TO YOUR WORDS I REMEMBERED
I WANT TO GO HOME AND SAY THE THINGS I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SAY
AND I WANT TO LISTEN TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY TOO.
All that I wanted—was to be needed by the person I loved.
Does father need me?
Does he—love me...?
I'M SCARED, BUT—
I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST WILL YOU DO YOUR BEST TOO, PRINCESS?

With this kiss
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I REALLY AM THE OZ BRIDE OR NOT,
BUT IF I HAVE EVEN A LITTLE BIT OF POWER, THEN HERE—
May you be happy—
SHY
SEY: clow


EH...?
WH-
WHAT?!
SFX shine
SFX whoosh

THE RAINBOW ROAD —
IT'S THE RAINBOW ROAD!
AMAZING!
There are seven colors!
WHY IS IT COMING HERE —?
It's like a science experiment
Eww
This is sad.
Ah!

MIDORI!
SUU!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT...!
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU, MIDORI—
You're not hurt anywhere?
UH-UH, I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE—
SUU! STEIN!
HAP

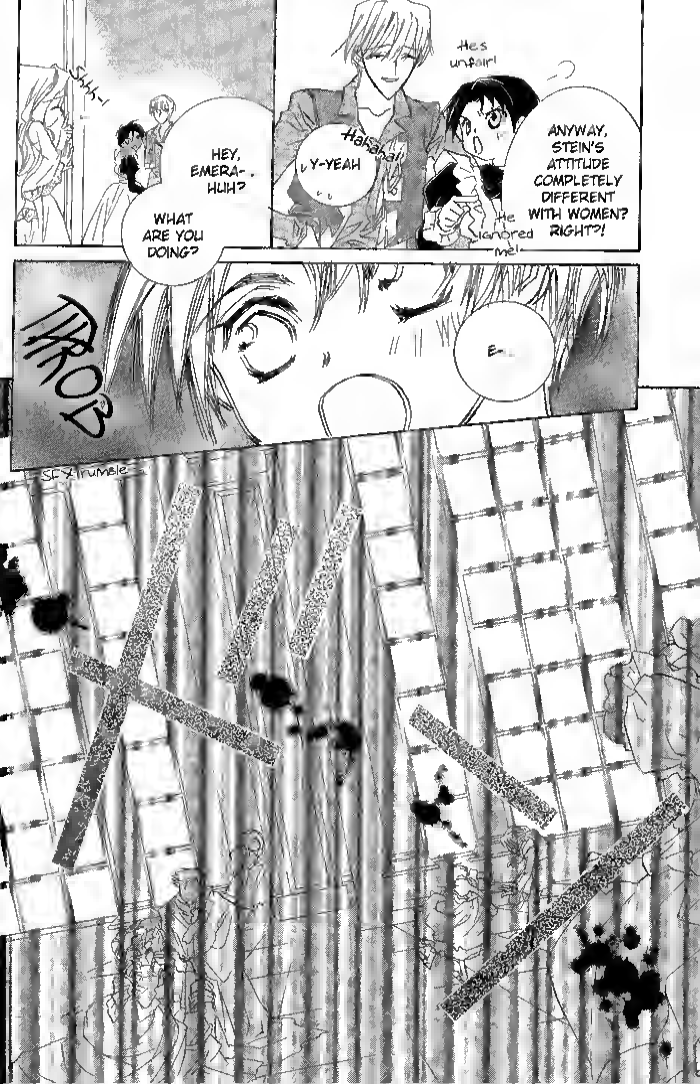
Gah! Don't let it go!
This was supposed to be a discussion—(
What's with this? It's cute!
AH...
WHOOSH
STEIN, I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOU TOO.
TURNS
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, LANGUIDIA
SHOCK
Hmph —!!!
He's ignoring me?!
I was apologizing!!
EH... EH?!

YOU— RECOGNIZE ME?
EVEN THOUGH I'VE CHANGED SO MUCH?
EVEN IF YOU CHANGE YOUR FACE, YOUR HEART STILL HASN'T CHANGED, RIGHT?
I HEARD THE RUMORS, AND WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
YOU WERE WORRIED? ABOUT ME?

MY BODY MAY BE COLD STEEL, BUT
IF I ALLOWED MYSELF TO FORGET THE WARMTH OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP, THEN EVEN MY HEART WOULD FREEZE
ARE YOU SAYING MY HEART IS WARM?
Did they reach him? Even just a little?
My feelings—
I DON'T KNOW THE WORDS TO CONVEY THIS WITHOUT BEING RUDE,
BUT. .

My feelings—!
WHENEVER I RETURNED FROM MY TRAVELS,
I ALWAYS FELT WELCOMED IN THIS CASTLE, WITH SUCH WARMTH AND KINDNESS
AND I HAVE LIVED KNOWING THAT THAT WOULD NEVER CHANGE
STEIN. .
WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR FAILING TO CONTACT YOU FOR SO LONG?
YES. . YES

This
Is more than enough recom-pense——
MAY IT BE INCLUDED,
IN THIS LONGED-FOR KISS FROM A KNIGHT
Eh——?!
Eh——?!?
Eh——?!?!
No way!
!!
Stein smiled!
THEN THE KNIGHT WAS STEIN?!
It's the first time I've seen it!
I guess he really can smile.
Cruel↗


SHH-!
HEY, EMERA-. HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Y-YEAH
Hahaha!
He's unfair!
He ignored me!
ANYWAY, STEIN'S ATTITUDE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WITH WOMEN? RIGHT?!
E-
TROD
SCRUMBLE

I found you!
WHOOSH
This is the end of the rainbow!
SFX roar

—!!!
WRAP
WRAP
YO, OZ MORONS! THANKS FOR SHOWING US WHERE THE BRIDE WAS!
Yuki!
Midori!

SFX rumble
SFX chomp
MIDORI—!!
SINCE EVE IS SO CLOSE
THIS TIME I'LL TAKE YOU THERE
You look cute in that outfit!
TO MY CASTLE

TO GNOME!

THIS TIME I'LL TAKE YOU THERE.
—TO GNOME—

"—MIDORI!"
— The last thing I saw,
was Emerada's nearly-crying face
I'm sorry, Emerada.
In the end, I'm the one who always needs rescuing.
— I wonder if we'll ever meet again.

slide
drop
Dowah!
—OWWW...
appear
DON'T SPACE OUT THERE, IDIOT!
SHUT UP! I'M SORRY!
HEY, HEY, ISN'T THAT A RATHER COMPOSED ATTITUDE TO HAVE WHEN YOU'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED?
ARE YOU TEASING ME?

Sasp
That's right, this is—!
THE ONE TEASING IS YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT THIS IS GNOME!
WELCOME TO OUR UNDERGROUND KINGDOM OF GNOME, OZ BRIDE!

This is the underground kingdom!
snap
DASH

I WOULD STOP THAT. IT'S BETTER FOR YOU IF YOU DON'T STRUGGLE TOO MUCH
OP Gnome?
LOOK ABOVE YOU.
Slide
WAH!

SCREECH
SCREECH
THAT'S DIONEYA IT'S AN UNDERGROUND PREDATOR THAT ONLY LIVES IN GNOME
YOU WERE RIDING IT BEFORE. USING IT TO MOVE AROUND UNDERGROUND IS MORE CONVENIENT THAN THE ROAD OF THE DEAD.
IT'S STILL WILD, SO DON'T DO ANYTHING CARELESS
SFX roar

LORD YULE,
Drool
IT'S BEEN MOVING AROUND A LOT, SO IT'S PROBABLY STARVING NOW
IT'S FAVORITE FOOD IS THE MEAT OF YOUNG CHILDREN. IT DOESN'T EVEN LEAVE THE BONES BEHIND, YOU KNOW?
GOOD JOB RETURNING SAFELY AND BRINGING THE OZ BRIDE WITH YOU
WRIGGLE WRIGGLE
POM POM
I USED THAT OZ SUMMONING AS A SIGN TO FOLLOW
IT WAS EASY
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE'S MY ELDER BROTHER?
I WANT TO SHOW THIS GUY TO HIM
That isn't necessary

Wha... what?!
Shatter
So, you are the Oz Bride?
The rock— !!!

This guy is the Gnome King— ?!
Huge!
ELDER BROTHER
I'VE BROUGHT THE OZ BRIDE AS YOU REQUESTED
Good work, Yule
Such a terribly filthy appearance
But if we polish her a bit, she'll have some charm
DIRTY...?
Grr
ELDER BROTHER?
B... bride?!
Well, it's fine. She's a little young to become my bride I suppose.
That sort of playing is fun every now and then.
I'm in tatters because of this pet of yours— !!!
Or so he wants to say but he can't
?!
chomp

Oh, you didn't know?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY BRIDE?!!
A bride is someone who is about to become a wife.
Surely that means you as well
What sort of stupid things are you saying?! I'm a guy!
Hah!
stare
Skirt
It's been a while since I've looked like this!
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
?
See! I'm a proper boy!
Waaah!
This is wrong!
Move you wrigglers!
TOSS
TOSS
TOSS

LIFT
Eek!
Heheheh... You're amusing, O2 Bride.
I don't really care if you're a boy
In this world, there's a special kind of magic that can turn men into women and women into men
No waaaay ...!!!
Well now, who knows?
ELDER BROTHER...
ELDER BROTHER... DON'T TEASE HIM TOO MUCH.
THIS GUY... THAT... YOU'RE PLANNING ON RETURNING HIM ONCE WE HAVE OUR MIRACLE, AREN'T YOU?
NO—! LET GO OF ME, YOU PERVERT!!!
ELDER BROTHER?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN RAISE?! IT'S NOT FUN FOR ME!
You seem like a pleasant child. It might be fun to raise you.
Hahaha! You really are amusing.
PWEH PWEH
Geh! It's stone!
Moron
Chomp
Let me go!!!
ELDER BROTHER! YOU'RE NOT REALLY SERIOUS, ARE YOU?
THIS KID IS FROM THE UPPER WORLD— HE'S THE SAME AS THE HUMANS FROM OZ WHO WALK ABOVE THE GROUND
YOU HATE THE HUMANS THAT LIVE ABOVE THE GROUND— DON'T YOU?
BROTH-ER...

touch
Don't say such precious things, my dear "little brother"
I don't want "whatever"~!!!
What's going on? uu
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KISS HIM OR WHATEVER, THEN HURRY UP AND DO IT!
You really are adorable—
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!
ONCE WE HAVE THE MIRACLE, WE WON'T NEED HIM ANYMORE...
Eh?!
That's true Then you should try first

THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
Why are you hesitating?
We don't know how the Oz Bride's blessing will manifest.
It could be you, right?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BROTHER—?!
Are our wishes not the same thing, my brother?
!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD BE! MY WISH IS—!
...Or could it be that your wish would bring harm to Gnome—?
Then it shouldn't matter which of us is the one to kiss him.

MOVE, DIONEYA
MY... WISH ..
Yule
WAH!
S- STOP IT! HEY!
Yule

No, no, no, no, no!
I DON'T... WANT IT.
It's no good.
If we kiss-
NO—!
STOP IT...!
SECRET
I can't.
CH

irritated
sigh
HEY...
WHAT THE HELL, YOU BASTARD! THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D FAINT JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO!
I'LL HURT YOU IF YOU FALL ASLEEP!
grab
COLLAPSE
EH...? HEY!
A FEVER...?
Nothing was wrong with him earlier!
EH...?!
What's with him?

What's wrong, Yule?
HMMM.
I DON'T KNOW, BUT HE HAS A REALLY BAD FEVER.
I CAN'T TELL MUCH.
WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH HIM?
BUT I THINK THE STRESS OF COMING TO THE UNDERGROUND BECAME TOO MUCH
WE SHOULD LET HIM REST FOR NOW
Hmph... Very well, I'll leave the entertainment to you.
We have the Bride in our hands, so there's no need to rush.

RUMBLE
Yule, take good care of your compatriot.
Are you worried, Yule?
You are kind to the Oz Bride.
THAT'S NOT MY INTENTION.
—IT'S STRANGE, HIS FEVER WAS SO HIGH JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO,
BUT IT'S ALREADY COME MOST OF THE WAY DOWN.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT...
IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT HE'S THE OZ BRIDE?

SFX clang
LORD YULE,
IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT TO BRING THE OZ BRIDE TO THIS DUNGEON?
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ISN'T THIS THE PLACE THAT WAS USED TO HOLD YOUR MOTHER?
LORD YULE.
IT WASN'T... USED! WATCH YOUR WORDS!
—IT'S NOT JUST A PRISON, IT'S JUST THAT ITS STRUCTURE IS SUITED FOR IT
YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING THAT SHE WAS "LOCKED UP"
FOR THE TIME BEING THAT KID IS A PATIENT, RIGHT?

THE KING MIGHT BE SERIOUS
I FEAR THAT HISTORY MIGHT END UP REPEATING ITSELF.
LORD YULE!
"WAAAH!"
"HWAH..."

"HARU...! HARUMI..."
"STOLE THE PLAYSTATION CONTROLLER!"
"OH MY, MIDORI!"
"YOU'RE SOBBING, WHAT'S WRONG?"
SOB
SOB
SOB
"BUT GRANDMA, THAT'S BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T GIVE IT TO ME!"
"I WON'T GIVE MY "LOVE" TO KIDS THAT CAN'T GET ALONG."
"I'M NOT WAITING! I WANTED TO PLAY TOO!"
"DON'T BE STUPID! I WAS GONNA GIVE IT TO YOU!"
"WHAT'S TODAY'S "LOVE"?"
"EEEH?! NO WAY!"
"NOW, YOU TWO DON'T FIGHT."

"IT'S A STRAWBERRY AND CRANBERRY TART."
"I'LL GIVE MIDORI AND HARUMI MY LOVE."
"ME TOO —!"
"I LOVE STRAWBERRIES —!"
"I LOVE MIDORI!"
"I LOVE HARUMI!"
Yay—!
"OH, JUST STRAWBERRIES?"
"I LOVE THEM TOO."
Yay—!
"AND ALSO?"
Umm—

"SUCH GOOD KIDS, YOU DID IT."
"I LOVE BOTH OF YOU TOO—"
That tickles!
Kisses.
Lots of kisses.
From grandma,
Softly on the cheek.
This is an 'I'm sorry' kiss.
Delicious kisses.
From me,
Happy kisses.
Yeah
And from Harumi

"DID YOU KNOW MIDORI," "THERE'S AN EVEN MORE SPECIAL KISS FOR YOUR MOST BELOVED PERSON?"
"EH —?! WHAT'S THAT? WHAT KIND? I WANNA DO IT WITH YOU, GRANDMA!"
"WE CAN'T."
"HEY, CAN'T WE?"
"THAT'S A SECRET YOU HAVE TO PROTECT."
"CAN YOU BE A GOOD BOY AND MAKE A PROMISE WITH ME?"
"EH —? THAT'S LAME."
peck
"EH —?!"
"YEAH, I'LL BE GOOD! WE'LL MAKE A PINKY PROMISE!"
"IT'S A VE—RY SPECIAL KISS."
"YOU'LL DO IT WITH SOMEONE SPECIAL, WHEN YOU'RE OLDER."

...MIDORI, THE SECRET KISS IS —
YOU CONNECT YOUR HEARTS WITH YOUR LIPS
YOU GIVE YOUR "MOST PRECIOUS FEELINGS"
YOU CONVEY THE WISHES OF YOUR HEART,
TO THAT ONE SPECIAL PERSON.

Father's someone "special" is — that person...

That should be obvious.
What's the use in having this jealousy over his lover?
I just want to have father all to myself.
I really am a child.
I promised Princess Languidia,
I— must become strong
So I can tell father properly.
That's why I decided I have to go back.
I'M... AN IDIOT.
THAT'S AN AMAZING FATHER COMPLEX...

Reach
Eh?
Wh...at?
Someone's...
...is
The fingers
are very,
very cold.
They're
touching my...
lips—
SFX: punch
"YOU MUSTN'T
LET THE
GNOMES KISS
YOU UNTIL
AFTER THE
MIRACLE HAS
HAPPENED."
I can't be
kissed!
!
Wah—
Stop—!

I WON'T LET YOU FORCE ME!
I WON'T LET YOU WITHOUT CONSENT!
Flail
Flail
UM...
Silence
—...
Huh?
I'M SORRY.
I'M VERY... SORRY
PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY—
UM.
I'M SORRY—
I misun- derstood?
Um, the one's at fault?

Pure white skin.
And pale golden blonde hair.
Oz
OZ... BRIDE?
It gives the impression of something short-lived.
WHO— ARE YOU?

Y... YES?
OZ BRIDE...?
terrible
reach
!
I-I'M SORRY
AH...!!
clatter

Ah...
fumble fumble
HERE.
This person can't see—
Pinch
TH...ANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WERE YOU GIVING THIS FOOD... TO ME?
Clatter
YES. I HOPE THAT YOU LIKE IT. .
UM, EXCUSE ME.. YOUR EYES—?
YES. I'M BLIND
THAT'S THE REASON FOR MY RUDE-NESS—
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME.. SOMEHOW.

YES...?
flinch
UM, YOU KNOW YOU...
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE SCARED OF ME...?
I'M... REALLY NOT SCARY—
DON'T BE SO SCARED... YOU'LL MAKE ME SAD...
smile
sigh
YES, OZ... BRIDE.
touch

AAH... YOU REALLY ARE THE BRIDE.
THESE CHEEKS, THESE LIPS,
HAVE A GENTLE WARMTH—
UM...
SHHH BE QUIET
AND THESE LIPS DON'T JUST PROVIDE A BLESSING,
touch
THEY ALSO SAY SUCH KIND WORDS
I REALLY AM— SO GLAD I CAME TO MEET YOU...
MEET... ME—?

EARLIER.. WERE YOU CRYING?
AH! NO, THAT WAS JUST..
I HAD A DREAM ABOUT MY WORLD— AND SO I FELT— A BIT..
Embarrass-ing~!
YOU POOR THING I WISH I COULD COMFORT YOU.
BUT WITH THIS BODY, THERE ISN'T MUCH I CAN DO FOR YOU.
YOU— YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GNOME?
WHY...?
WHY? WELL, THAT'S..

IT'S FRUSTRATING TO THINK ABOUT HIM GETTING HIS WISH...
YOU'RE THE ONE LORD YULE KIDNAPPED—
THIS WAY, HE'LL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE BRIDE'S MIRACLE
DO YOU DISLIKE. . YULE?
YES, I DISLIKE HIM.
ALTHOUGH, IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO SAY THAT I HATE HIM
OZ BRIDE, PLEASE LOOK AT MY EYES
GASP
EH..?!
THE REASON MY EYES ARE SHROUDED IN DARKNESS IS BECAUSE OF THAT MAN—

LOOK MORE... CLOSELY—
His silver hair is so pretty...
His eyes are the color of rubies—
I shouldn't be able to see it but his gaze... is shooting right into me.
Red. It's red—
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, OZ BRIDE? YOU MUST NEVER LET YOUR HEART FORGIVE LORD YULE
YES.
YOU MUSTN'T GRANT HIM HIS WISH
ALL RIGHT, OZ BRIDE?
Yes.
LISTEN TO MY WORDS . —

EH? HUH—?
gasp
flash
HEY! YOU!
finch
WAVER
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?! HOW DID YOU SNEAK IN?!
HURRY UP AND GET OUT! I WON'T LET SOME GUY I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE GET AWAY!
OZ BRIDE—!
STOP IT! LET HIM GO! DON'T DO ANYTHING BAD TO HIM!

PLEASE, KEEP WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT LORD YULE A SECRET—!
Y... YEAH!
HEY NOW, COME HERE!
WAIT! YOUR NAME—!
SFX: clang
NAASHIA?
—IT'S NAASHIA!
NAASHIA!

...DAMMIT!
clench
TERRIBLE. .
THESE GNOMES ARE TERRIBLE!
NAASHIA WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT ME —!
How did you sneak in?!
NAASHIA...
clench
But— but,
—That's right, the gate was locked.
How did Naashia get in here!?
Huh...?
!
Gasp

PLEASE, LET GO OF ME!!! LET GO...!
SHUT UP!
JUST WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?!
A WEIRD-COLORED GUY LIKE YOU WILL BE EASY TO FIND OUT ABOUT!
YOU'RE GOING TO... FIND OUT ABOUT ME?
THAT'S RIGHT!
He was worried about me.
He was so kind to me— Naashia...
HMMM,
...BUT IF YOU DO THAT, WON'T THAT BE TROUBLESOME FOR ME?
WHAT?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO I AM?
FUFU, THEN WHY DON'T I TELL YOU...?
IN EXCHANGE.
WH-WHO ARE YOU?!
AH!
HEY... LOOK AT ME.
Aaaaah!!

SOSU
WE NEED TO MARCH INTO BATTLE WITH GNOME RIGHT NOW!
WE NEED TO RUSH IN, AND TEACH THEM A LESSON! WE CAN'T FORGIVE THEM FOR TAKING MIDORI!
PLEASE CALM DOWN, EMERADA.
HOW CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING SO EASYGOING?!

RIGHT NOW, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, MIDORI COULD BE BEING ATTACKED
BY THAT STUPID YULE OR THAT PERVERTED GNOME KING!
KYA—! SO DISGUSTING—!
. . .
Lady Emerada is that the type of character you are ?
I'M SORRY, EMERADA. .
YOU'RE WRONG. THAT GUY'S THE ONE WHO RAN OFF ON HIS OWN, SO HE'S AT FAULT.
BUT STEIN!
IF WE HAD DONE A BETTER JOB OF STAYING WITH MIDORI EARLIER, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED .
I WAS THE ONE CLOSEST TO MIDORI
I LISTENED TO HIS FEELINGS, BUT—
"IT'S MY GRANDMOTHER'S WATCH!"
I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO HIM THEN—

...HOW STUPID.
I WASN'T BLAMING YOU, SUU. I WAS UNPREPARED AS WELL
I COULD HAVE GOTTEN US OUT OF EVE MUCH FASTER, BUT I DIDN'T..
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT ANY ONE OF US IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT'S ALL OF OUR FAULTS
crack
THAT'S WHY WE'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO GET MIDORI BACK
smile
AND THEN WE'LL ALL APOLOGIZE TOGETHER! OKAY?
EMERADA..

ARE YOU BLAMING YOURSELF?
...THANKS TO GETTING CAUGHT UP IN MY STUPID OBSESSION,
THE OZ BRIDE IS IN DANGER—
PRINCESS,
Shut
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT EMERALDA SAID? THIS ISN'T SOMETHING ANY ONE OF US SHOULD TAKE THE BLAME FOR.
BUT!
—LION IS MAKING HIS MOVE
MAY WE ASK FOR YOU, THE PRINCESS CLOSEST TO GNOME, TO LEND US YOUR STRENGTH?
Snap

clatter
—PLEASE?
...FROM MY HEART..
sigh

How many days has it been since I came here...?
I eat and sleep repeatedly, but without being able to see how it is outside
How many times... have they brought food?
I don't have any feeling for what time it is...
I haven't seen him since then.
Naashia—
What should I do if something terrible happened to him?
What if he was punished because of me—?
clang
YO!
OZ BRIDE!
creak
YULE!
NAA-...?!

I'll never trust this type of guy!
Of course I won't, Naashia.
"YOU MUST NEVER LET YOUR HEART FORGIVE LORD YULE."
COME
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?! EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO FORCE YOURSELF ON ME AGAIN!
I'M GONNA TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE NICE
YOU WERE PROBABLY BORED WITH NOTHING TO DO RIGHT?
ドクン

...
...
.....
SFX: step
HEEEY! WHERE ARE WE GOING?!

ARE YOU EXHAUSTED? IT'S JUST A LITTLE FURTHER.
garc
I'M FINE! THIS IS NOTHING!
Shut up! It's tiring trying to climb without using my hands.

THIS WAY
What would happen to me if I ran away somewhere dark like this? — This is underground, after all.
My legs are free so it's not like I can't run away, but
The first thing I have to do is find an escape to above ground—
FINE THEN, JUST SHUT UP AND COME.
We're probably going to some terrible place again anyway!

HAH...
WAH...
HI!

WE CALL IT THE "WINDOW OF LIGHT"
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN GNOME WHERE LIGHT CAN GET IN FROM ABOVE GROUND
THIS IS—
The blue— sky.
Aah,
So it's the afternoon right now.

HEY, YOU
YOUR FACE IS PALE. HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PROPERLY?
GRAB
Ahh... I feel so relieved.
Was the sun's light
Always this warm...?
IF THERE'S SOME FOOD YOU LIKE OR ENJOY, JUST TELL ME
I'LL PREPARE IT FOR YOU.
I'VE EATEN, BUT ONLY A LITTLE..
IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW ABOVE GROUND PEOPLE THE BEST HERE IN GNOME
Well it should be fine
...YOU WILL?

HMMM.
WHAT IS IT?
EVEN THOUGH YOU HATE OZ AND THE EMERALD CITY, YOU'RE REALLY WELL-INFORMED.
. . .
AH.. COULD IT BE THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE FROM ABOVE GROUND HERE?
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU
EH..? THERE ARE? IF THERE ARE I WANT TO MEET THEM—
THERE ISN'T ANYONE!

THERE ISN'T ANYONE ANYMORE —
Anymore?
I feel like I asked about something bad...
...What should I do?
UM... YULE? I'M SORRY I—
. . .
EH?
IF...
IF YOU WANT TO COME HERE AGAIN, JUST LET ME KNOW

THE OTHER GNOMES DON'T COME NEAR THIS PLACE.
...GNOMES ARE WEAK TO LIGHT.
BUT FOR ABOVE GROUND HUMANS
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU GET SICK IF YOU GO TOO LONG WITHOUT THE SUN'S LIGHT, RIGHT?
Is that...
Because the person who was here before got sick?
— That can't be the only reason for such kindness.
IT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE BRIDE . I'LL LOOK AFTER YOU UNTIL WE GET OUR MIRACLE!
Is that why he brought me here?
...Because he... was worried?
Hmph!

It can't be— right?
This is a Gnome City—
Borrowed
HELLO, LORD YULE! THAT'S QUITE THE SEEDY-LOOKING KID YOU HAVE WITH YOU!
IS HE YOUR NEW YOU-KNOW?
YOU'RE WRONG! HE'S GONN. KILL YOU!

HEY, BRIDE!
I guess they're not all scary-
It should have been obvious.
Of course, Gnomes live normal lives like this.
catch!
WHEESH
WAH!
IT'S NOT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS.
What is this?
Hot Hot
EAT IT.
GEH!
Wasn't that the thing that ate people?!
THERE ARE STILL THINGS FROM THE UNDERGROUND THAT YOU CAN EAT
Don't worry, he has different prey.
ISN'T IT? WE MAKE THIS BREAD FROM DIONEYA'S ROOTS
grin
HUH? IT'S DELICIOUS—!
The—re!
chomp
chew chew

COMPARED TO OZ, GNOME ISN'T A VERY WEALTHY COUNTRY AND DOESN'T HAVE A LOT,
...Yule?
BUT FOR US, THIS IS OUR WORLD—
LORD YULE!
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! LATELY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SHOWING YOURSELF AROUND HERE!
BUMP
LISTEN! LISTEN! I BEAT GARON IN FENCING!
EXCITED

Don't fight with your brother!
HEY NO— STOP IT!
WHAT, DO YOU WANNA HAVE A GO?
JUST WHO WAS IT THAT WON?!
AH! THIS GUY IS WEARING HANDCUFFS!
BA-THUMP
SHOULD WE GET HIM—?!
LORD YULE! IS THIS A BAD GUY?!
BUT DON'T FIGHT OUTSIDE OF GAMES!
I GET IT! I'LL COME BY TOMORROW!
YEAH!
DEFI-NITELY!
AH—? WHO'S THIS GUY?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!
AH— HE'S ALL RIGHT. EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKS LIKE THIS, HE'S A GUEST.
EH—? BUT THE HAND-CUFFS—
Looks like this?
HM— WELL, THAT'S—

Eeeh?!!
DON'T SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT!
RIGHT NOW, THIS IS A POPULAR ACCESSORY FOR ABOVE GROUND PEOPLE
YOU'RE FROM ABOVE GROUND?!
Y.. YEAH
Well technically, I'm from another world
Jerk
THEN, HAVE YOU ALREADY GONE TO THE "WINDOW OF LIGHT"?
THEY SAY IT'S DANGEROUS, SO NO ONE WILL TAKE US THERE.
HEY, IS THE LIGHT PRETTY? DOES IT FEEL GOOD WHEN IT TOUCHES YOU?
EXCITED
EXCITED
THAT'S NICE. THAT MEANS THAT JUST LIKE LADY EMILINA, YOU CAN GO TO THE WINDOW OF LIGHT.
EMILINA...? WHO'S THAT?
YOU DON'T KNOW? SHE'S LORD YULE'S DEAREST—
ABBY! GARON!

HEY, YOU SHOULDN'T USE SUCH HARSH WORDS WITH KIDS..!
LORD YULE...!
DON'T TALK ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS! OR I WON'T COME WATCH YOUR MATCH!
IT'S NOT... LIKE I HATE YOU
I'M SORRY FOR SHOUTING AT YOU TOO.
I WON'T SAY ANYMORE SO DON'T BE MAD!
I... I'M SORRY, LORD YULE!
DON'T HATE US—!
WAA—AH
DON'T CRY.
I'M SORRY.

WE UNDER-STAND!
Y... YEAH!
BUT DON'T BRING UP THAT EARLIER STORY AGAIN, OKAY?
AND YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN FROM GOING NEAR THE WINDOW OF LIGHT! UNDERSTAND?!
ALL RIGHT!
AND TO MAKE UP FOR MAKING YOU GUYS CRY,
I'LL LET YOU TWO RIDE DIONEYA NEXT TIME!
REALLY?!
YAAAY!!!

I don't really—
Understand Yule.
He says it's because I'm the Oz Bride.
And yet he strangely worries about me.
He kidnapped me.
Tried to force me to kiss him,
And has done terrible things,
I can't run well!!
Come on!
BRIDE! COME ALONG!
He really is loved—
But like this, it seems that

HEEEH? IS THAT SO?
LORD YULE TOOK THE OZ BRIDE TO THE WINDOW OF LIGHT?
Just which one is the real Yule—?

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE HE LOVES THE SCENT OF ABOVE GROUND...
HE SEEMS QUITE ATTACHED TO HIM.
EVEN THOUGH HE HATES IT WHEN ANYONE ELSE GOES THERE.
THIS IS A LITTLE TROUBLING LORD YULE
IF YOU BEHAVE IN SUCH A CUTE WAY IT MAKES ME WANT TO BULLY YOU
MY PLAN TO TAME THE OZ BRIDE IS ONCE AGAIN NO LONGER PERFECT
I'M ALSO NOT HAPPY THAT THOSE TWO ARE GETTING SO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER —
NAA... SHIA...
PANT PANT!

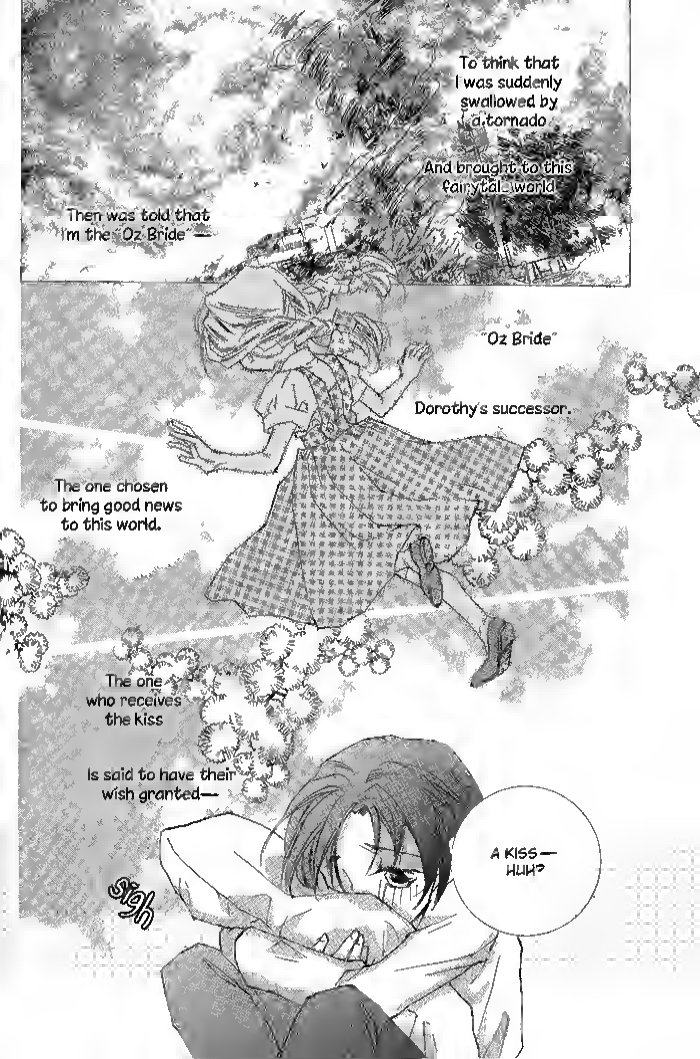
AH... UH!
RUSTLE
AAH... YOU DID A GOOD JOB.
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU AGAIN.
NAA... SHIA.
—SHALL I GIVE YOU YOUR REWARD?
drrbbbb
reach
drip
IT'S ALL RIGHT... LICK IT.

FUFU!
OZ BRIDE
YUE,
WHO SHOULD I PLAY WITH—?

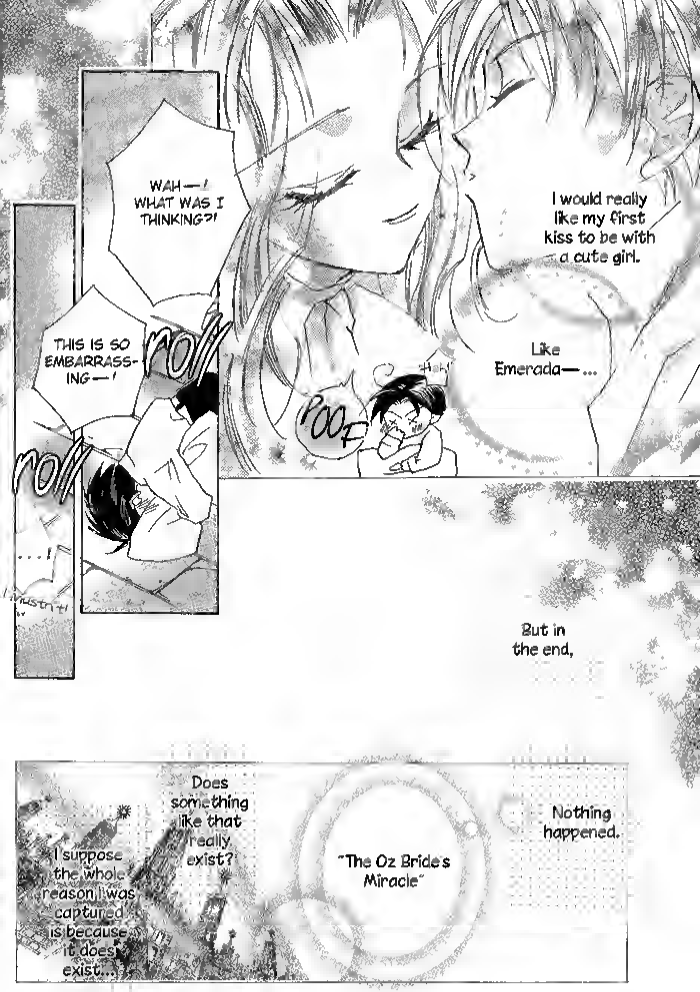
HEY, IT'S MEAL TIME
clang
CREAK
SEVENTEEN,
EIGHTEEN, HUH..?
sigh
I SHOULD EAT
ONE, TWO—
THREE...

Trapped underground like this
Unable to see the sky
I'm relying on my instincts and the number of meals, which makes me really uncertain.
CRUNCH
IT'S PROBABLY BEEN ABOUT TEN DAYS SINCE I GOT CAUGHT?
It's seem... that I've strangely been left mostly on my own.
Even though I thought I'd face horrible things here.
I was in the midst of travelling towards Oz with Yule and brought me here... to Gnome Kingdom.
captured me

THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST TRYING TO LURE ME IN!
Thump
Emerada, Suu, Stein... even Glinda,
It's been ten days since I arrived in Gnome.
I wonder what they're doing and if they're worried about me?
I wonder how long it takes to get here from Oz?
The magical kingdom of Oz
And the mysterious residents of Emerald City.
I wonder what Father and Harumi are doing...?


To think that I was suddenly swallowed by a tornado
And brought to this fairytal world
Then was told that I'm the "Oz Bride"—
"Oz Bride"
Dorothy's successor.
The one chosen to bring good news to this world.
The one who receives the kiss
Is said to have their wish granted—
A KISS— HUH?
Sigh

Although Suu is a guy.
...But he's handsome so it's fine.
It's fine?
I've already done it with Suu,
I also kissed the princess myself, although it was just on the cheek.
THAT DOESN'T COUNT! THAT DOESN'T COUNT!
flap
flap
And also with Yule...
BUT THAT ISN'T REALLY THE PROBLEM RIGHT NOW
whoosh
SO HE WINS!
What did you say?
HAH!
BUT I'M SURE I KISSED HARUMI WAY BEFORE THAT!


I would really like my first kiss to be with a cute girl.
Like Emerada—...
POOF
WAH—! WHAT WAS I THINKING?!
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING—!
roll
roll
...!
But in the end,
Nothing happened.
"The Oz Bride's Miracle"
Does something like that really exist?
I suppose the whole reason I was captured is because it does exist...

Am I really
The Oz Bride— ?
AH.. THIS IS BAD, I'VE GIVEN IN
roll
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M A NOVICE
I'm so lost I should get back on the Red
THAT NOTHING HAPPENED
Hmph
Sparkle
HM—?
If that's true then what will Suu, Emerada, and the others do..?
The other option is-
That they were mistaken that I'm the Oz Bride.

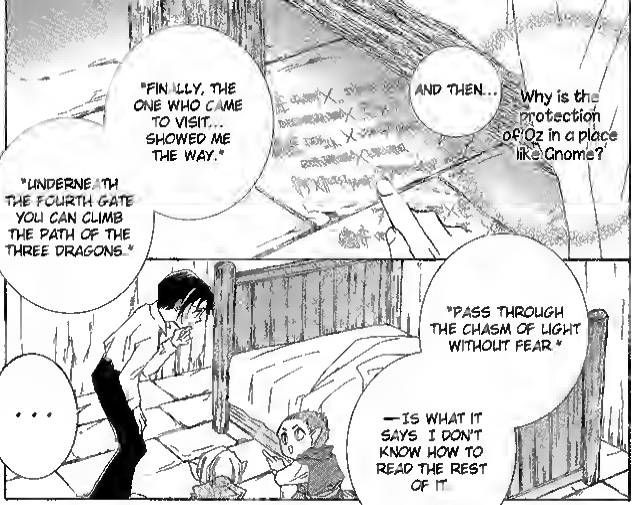
SOMETHING'S SHINING... LETTERS...? THE LETTERS ARE SHINING?
SOMETHING WAS WRITTEN UNDER THE BED!
LETTERS... SOME KIND OF CODE?
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT
NORMALLY I CAN UNDERSTAND THE WORDS THEY SAY,
BUT IT SEEMS I CAN'T READ THEIR WRITING...
HEY, YOU! GUEST..!
clang
DID THE PERSON WHO WAS TRAPPED IN HERE BEFORE ME WRITE THIS..?

ABBY! GARON!
GUEST ?
Clang
OZ BRIDE!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
YEP! HE ASKED US TO LOOK AFTER YOU!
WE'RE GONNA TAKE CARE OF YOU!
ISN'T IT AWESOME?
YULE DID?
HEHEH—! YULE ASKED US TO!
Us!
Ya—y'
Grin
LOOK AFTER ME ? YOU GUYS!

STAND GUARD! STAND GUARD!
SO HE SAID THAT IF YOU WANTED TO GO TO THE WINDOW OF LIGHT, WE SHOULD TAKE YOU THERE AND GUARD YOU!
LORD YULE'S BUSY RIGHT NOW!
IF WE BREAK OUR PROMISE WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS ANYMORE!
LORD YULE IS SO UNFAIR!
Unfair? Is that really the problem?
ALTHOUGH WE CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER THAN THE STAIRS.
EH? THAT'S WEIRD— IT WAS RIGHT OVER HERE.
WHAT, WHAT? THERE'S NOTHING THERE.
UNDER THE BED?
AH! BUT ACTUALLY YOU GUYS HAVE PERFECT TIMING. CAN YOU READ THIS?

SO PRETTY! THE LETTERS ARE SPARKLING!
WAH! AMAZING! WHEN YOU TOUCHED IT, IT GLOWED!
SPARKLE
WHY...? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
AMAZING! IT'S MAGIC!
IMPOSSIBLE, I CAN'T USE MAGIC.
SPARKLE
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I READ THIS?
YES, PLEASE.
What does it mean—?
IT'S NO GOOD, I CAN'T READ IT. I NEED TO STUDY MORE

HMM— THEN HOW ABOUT YOU SKIP OVER THE SYMBOLS YOU DON'T KNOW?
"I SUP-POSE..."
"I CANNOT STAY DOWN HERE FOR MUCH LONGER."
"I HAVE ONE REGRET—"
MY BELOVED CHILD WHO WAS BORN—
"BETWEEN THE TWO WORLDS."
"SOMEHOW, PLEASE GRANT HIM THE PROTECTION OF OZ."
Protection of Oz—?


"FINALLY, THE ONE WHO CAME TO VISIT... SHOWED ME THE WAY."
AND THEN...
Why is the protection of Oz in a place like Gnome?
"UNDERNEATH THE FOURTH GATE YOU CAN CLIMB THE PATH OF THE THREE DRAGONS."
"PASS THROUGH THE CHASM OF LIGHT WITHOUT FEAR."
...
—IS WHAT IT SAYS I DON'T KNOW HOW TO READ THE REST OF IT.

OZ BRIDE?
DO YOU KNOW WHO WROTE THIS?
DO YOU THINK IT WAS A GUY OR A GIRL?
I THINK IT WAS A GIRL IT FEELS GENTLE SOMEHOW
Why——..?
SCARF
I DUNNO THERE'S NO NAME.
AH! THANK YOU.
CHUCKLE
Excited

A child granted the protection of Oz... huh?
Just who could it be—?
YOU CALLED ME, BROTHER?
HM—...
SHOULD WE ASK LORD YULE ABOUT IT? HE MIGHT KNOW
Yule, huh...?
HEY, WE CAN GO TO THE WINDOW OF LIGHT NOW, RIGHT?
I'm not sure if he would willingly tell me.
YEAH
CLICK
You're putting on those handcuffs?

Heheh.. look.
WHOOSH
So you came, Yule.
It seems the kids you've taken a liking to
Are quite enamored with him
But I want to see inside!
RUN
RUN

If you're not careful, they might get carelessly fooled by him
If that happens, you might end up being hated?
rustle
DON'T SPEAK LIKE THAT... BROTHER WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SAY?
You took the Oz Bride to see the Window of Light
YOU'RE WRONG! I WAS JUST...
IT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME IF THE OZ BRIDE GOT SICK SO I—
Do you intend to let him escape?
By teaching him of that place—

That's very kind of you Do you like him that much?
IT'S NOT THAT! I JUST DON'T LIKE HAVING TO DEAL WITH TROUBLESOME THINGS!
Is it really only that?
Who would fall for that pug-nosed brat?
WHAT ELSE WOULD IT BE—?
...Because you love the smell of those from the above world
It pulls you, doesn't it?
The above ground.
It calls to that half of you, doesn't it?

The sprouting greenery,
The rising light,
To go above ground—
The distant blue sky,
The blue sky—
You want to go, don't you? And throw away both Gnome and me
I WOULD NEVER...

I won't forgive you if you fall in love with anyone else
I will never forgive you if you leave me, Yule
You are my precious eyes
...I KNOW THAT...
Those sky-colored eyes that open in the deep earth
Belong to me

BIG BROTHER!!
HOLD ON!!
DEEP
I WILL REMAIN HERE.
I WILL ALWAYS STAY BY YOUR SIDE.
I SWORE I WOULD ON THAT DAY.
HURTS
SAVE ME
YOU DIDN'T CALL ME JUST TO TALK ABOUT THAT—
Yes

Bring the Oz Bride to this cavern tomorrow
HAVE YOU DECIDED TO GIVE THE OZ BRIDE'S KISS A TRY?
No, not yet
I have something I want to test first
?
I'll use the Shadow Orb
THE SHADOW ORB?!

THAT'S NO GOOD, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS
HE'S STILL JUST A CHILD, AND IF HE BECOMES TRAPPED IN IT THAT WILL BE THE END.
IT COULD BREAK HIM.
It doesn't matter
BROTHER!
I don't care what happens to people who won't stand beside me.
It might be amusing to return him to Oz as a mere husk
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BLESSING? THE MIRACLE?
BROTHER!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR PROMISE TO SAVE GNOME?!

It's because of that promise that I'm doing this.
I have no interest in wasting the fact that the Oz Bride is helpless now that we've caught him.
This is to ensure that we receive the bride's miracle.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
You haven't realized it yet?
AH!
The Oz Bride's kiss is quite impressive

Even though his heart and body are still very immature,
— What isn't enough?
— What am I afraid of?
WHAT COULD IT BE...?
And this is something even the people of Oz probably do not know. Somehow we...
Identify a way to probe his heart
Learning that is your duty, isn't it?
Must find the key to manifesting the miracle

Soon it will be night—
Tomorrow is the day the shadow moon will be at its zenith
Sink your claws into his weak heart.
Expose him.
I'm leaving it to you

Started to glow when I touched it...
That message earlier,
But it didn't do anything when Abby touched it.
Why was that?
Who left that message— and who did they leave it for?
"My beloved child"
I DON'T KNOW WHO IT WAS.
"Somehow, please grant him the protection of Oz."
BUT I WONDER IF THEY MANAGED TO ESCAPE.
THAT WOULD BE NICE...
HMMM

"The fourth gate"
"Path of the three dragons"
I wonder if it was referring to the Window of Light?"
GATE HUH?
I WONDER WHERE SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS?
THERE AREN'T FOUR OF THEM, BUT HERE—
bang
WAIT
GEH—! IT'S REALLY DUSTY!
THERE'S NO WAY A PERSON COULD GET THROUGH THIS!
cough cough
I'M SURE IF I HAD SOME SORT OF CLUE—
Eek!

SHOULD I ASK YULE?
...BUT...
"THERE'S ISN'T ANYONE FROM ABOVE GROUND HERE!"
Yule looked really upset then.
He seemed sad.
gasp
shudder
What—
Is this creepy feeling?
Someone's watching me—?

WHO'S THERE...?
COLLAPSE
NAASHIA!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK TERRIBLE..
AAH. I WANTED TO SEE YOU, OZ BRIDE.

THIS IS TERRIBLE! YOU'RE COVERED IN WOUNDS
WHO DID THIS—?
NO WAY! YOU WERE ONLY WORRIED ABOUT ME
THE GUARD..
IT WAS PUNISHMENT FOR HIDING MYSELF SO THAT I COULD TRY AND FIND YOU.
OZ BRIDE,
ARE YOU AWARE THAT A WOMAN FROM OZ WAS ONCE HELD CAPTIVE HERE?
IT WAS LORD YULE'S ORDER
!

SHE WAS ALSO KILLED THANKS TO YULE
EH...?!
OZ BRIDE,
YOU MUST NEVER ALLOW YOUR HEART TO FORGIVE LORD YULE—!
Slide
NAASHIA! THOSE SCARS?!
Slow

A soothing light.
This gentle emerald light
Is the only thing she left me.
Emilina—...
Continued in Volume 3

やっと制服に着られた主人公
でも上着はお姉ちゃんの小さめなやつ(笑)

よく可愛い顔して「ベベンベン」
実は1番過激な子です。
プチ情報♪
松いさおの声優さんは…
実は1番過激な子です。
ベベンベン
ユーゴは…なんちゃって
那須くんにもなかなか
お目にかかれないし
ベベンベンに他ならない
エラーがは…
とにかく…
ベベンベン
ユーゴは…なんちゃって
那須くんにもなかなか
お目にかかれないし
ベベンベンに他ならない
エラーがは…
とにかく…
ベベンベン
実は1番過激な子です。
ベベンベン
ベベンベン
ベベンベン

いつもウィングス・コミックスを
ご愛読いただきありがとうございます。
今回の作品はいかがでしたか？
ぜひ　感想をお寄せください。
■　■　■
ファンレターのあてさき
〒113-0024 東京都文京区西片2-19-16
新書館　ウィングス編集部気付
四位広猫先生

【初出】

オズと魔法使いたち――――サウス「01年10月号～'02年6月号」Wings 02年9月号

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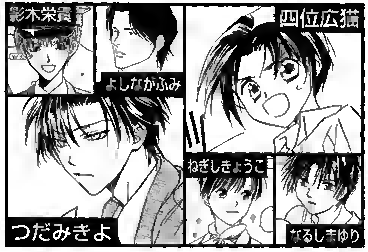

影なんく／あとり硅子／如月弘い／海江田景／石原理／神上真紀／風崎かおり／大塚ルモ／前原朱華樹／片山恵／カトリーヌあやこ／かわい千草／川波邦夏子／くさか里樹／神松／久世番子／倉木朋生／後藤星／芩川彩／佐久間智代／佐賀買助／佐藤ちなつ／志／戸田円／高坂朱里／高里椎奈／JUDAL／高橋ようこ／高松浩史／高遠瞳／滝水真仁／筒井哲子／テクノマリカ／東城和実／十波詩子／TOKO／中貴えり／那神紅／西脇なると／西野つかさ／野田ともこ／花郎藤子／藤崎ようか／松本ヒデユキ／水月梨士／宮本佳野／村山慶／もりしま圭／笠天弦あこ 他

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×NOVEL×

五百香ノエル／久世番子／佐々木禎子／菅野彰／月村奎／ひちのめか／藤崎ちとせ 他

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×ESSAY×

三浦しをん×あとり硅子

×COMIC×

あとり硅子／えみこ山／カトリーヌあやこ／くりこ田口／秋月弘 他

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